



News from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission  
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## **CELEBRATE EARTH DAY BY VISITING FLORACLIFF STATE NATURE PRESERVE**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 21, 2004) – To commemorate Earth Day, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) is conducting hikes on state nature preserves located throughout Kentucky during the month of April. On Saturday, April 24, Join KSNPC's Joyce Bender on a hike to view spring wildflowers and Elk Lick Falls at Mary Wharton's wildflower sanctuary in southeastern Fayette County. To help participants learn how to identify wildflowers, copies of the new book *Wildflowers and Ferns of Kentucky* by Dr. Thomas G. Barnes and S. Wilson Francis will be available for sale at a discount. Contact Carey Ruff at 859-351-7770 or e-mail her at [floracliff@aol.com](mailto:floracliff@aol.com) to sign up and get directions to the meeting location at the preserve.

State government agencies have joined together this year to celebrate Earth Day, which is April 22. Spearheaded by the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet (EPPC), the various cabinets have organized environmental related activities throughout the month of April.

Among the activities planned are family hikes, state government open houses, public library displays, *Read to Achieve* Earth Day readings, as well as tree planting and water testing events. For additional information on these activities and many others please refer to the state's comprehensive Earth Day Web site at [www.environment.ky.gov/earthday](http://www.environment.ky.gov/earthday).

This is the first time a statewide Earth Day campaign has been organized by state government. "We in state government have a special responsibility to be good stewards of Kentucky's air, water and land," said EPPC Secretary LaJuana S. Wilcher. "Earth day is an opportunity for state government agencies to review their practices and take action to make Kentucky a better place to live, work and play."

The Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission's mission is to protect Kentucky's natural heritage by: (1) identifying, acquiring, and managing natural areas that represent the best-known occurrences of rare native species, natural communities and significant natural features in a statewide nature preserve system; (2) working with others to protect biological diversity; and (3) educating Kentuckians as to the value and purpose of nature preserves and biodiversity conservation.

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